

John S. Whitelaw

### Professional Experience

John S. Whitelaw rejoined CLASI as its first Advocacy Director in December 2017. In this position, he works with our advocates to pursue creative strategies to address systemic problems faced by our clients. John also manages CLASI's Public Benefits unit, Elder Law Program and Fair Housing work. John has more than thirty years of experience representing low income and other vulnerable clients in various legal aid programs. Previously John was Co-Director of the Aging and Disabilities unit at the North Philadelphia office of Community Legal Services, Inc. of Philadelphia. He was with CLS for almost twenty years. For much of his career John has represented clients in matters involving government benefits (TANF, GA, Food Stamps or SNAP, and Medical Assistance) and the Social Security Administration. John has represented claimants at all administrative levels and in federal and state court. John has been a presenter at many national and regional trainings. John also has experience assisting student loan borrowers with disabilities and served as an alternate negotiator in a previous student loan rulemaking. John previously worked for CLASI in Wilmington (1995—1997), and other legal aid programs in Beckley WV (1990-1995) and Minneapolis MN (1987-90). He also worked for the Federal Public Defender Association in Philadelphia in the Capital Habeas Unit (1997-1998).

### Education

John received his law degree from Stanford Law School in 1986. He graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1983 where he majored in History.